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Press Release

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**ATTORNEY GENERAL DARRELL MCGRAW ANNOUNCED TODAY
THAT TAXOL PURCHASERS WILL BE RECEIVING REFUNDS THIS WEEK**

West Virginia Attorney General Darrell McGraw today announced settlement checks are being mailed to consumers who submitted claims for the purchases of the anti-cancer drug, Taxol, or its generic form, Paclitaxel. More than 200 checks totaling approximately \$110,000 will be mailed to West Virginians.

The settlement resolved an antitrust case filed by Attorney General McGraw against Bristol-Myers Squibb Company in the Federal District Court for the District of Columbia. All 50 states, the District of Columbia and other U.S. territories joined in the action against Bristol-Myers Squibb claiming that the company prevented lower cost generic substitutes for Taxol from coming on to the market. Bristol-Myers Squibb's actions resulted in higher prices being paid by those purchasing the drug. The settlement received final approval by the District Court in November 2003.

"As with this settlement, I will continue to bring actions to help bring the prices of prescription drugs down for West Virginians," said Attorney General McGraw.

As a result of the settlement, individuals who paid all or part of the cost for treatments with Taxol or Paclitaxel during the period from January 1, 1999 through February 28, 2003, and who submitted valid claims, will receive reimbursements of at least \$525. Consumers who paid the entire cost for two or more treatments will be paid \$438 for each such treatment. Nationally, about 12,700 consumers will receive refunds totaling \$7,200,000.

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